

Exchange Report
Fall Semester 2022-2023
KEDGE Business School
Bordeaux, France



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Session I: Monthly Activity Log:

August:

After more than 14 hours from Hong Kong to Frankfurt, 8 hours layover in Frankfurt airport and 2 hours flight from Frankfurt to Bordeaux, I arrived my destined city eventually. Once I got off the plane, I took the bus from the airport to my hotel first. I would stay there for 3 days. After that I moved in to my Airbnb and this is the place where I had stayed for the whole semester in Bordeaux. I spent around 3 days to settle down and explore this lovely city. The orientation day was held on 31, August by the KEDGE business school and an association called "Melting Potes". Basically you can ask different kind of questions to students from Melting Potes. They are so friendly and helpful. The orientation activities lasted for around 3 days. After that, they also organised some voluntary activities which attendance was not mandated.

September:

As I enrolled in Master in Management Program Level 2, unlike other students who had classes starting from the beginning of September, all my courses started from mid-September. Thus, I had a short break before the kickstart of my semester. I travelled to Prague and Budapest in these two weeks and returned back to Bordeaux few days before. The semester was started on September 19. I needed to take 6 courses (30ECTS) in total. Similar to UST, the first, two lessons were just the introduction of the course syllabus and assignments. I had classes from Monday to Wednesday.

October:

As the semester had already started in the mid of September, I had to attend classes from Monday to Wednesday on October. Apart from that, I also arranged several trips during the weekend.

November:

November started to be busy. Since many mid-term quizzes and projects were coming, I spent most of my time in doing projects with my teammates and studying for the mid term quizzes. I also managed to go for several trips in November.

December:

As the semester was approaching to its end, final exams and project deadlines were coming. I had to spend more time to focus on my study. The semester was ended in the mid of December, it also means the end of my study in KEDGE. Then, I travelled around Europe before returning to Hong Kong.

Session2: General Exchange Information:

Visa Procedures:

It may probably take a long time to process the visa so better apply your visa as soon as possible. First, I had to go to the website of the France Consulate and make the appointment with Campus France for the interview, and the visa application after the interview with campus France. As the appointment was quite full so better make two appointments at the same time.

Orientation Activities:

Orientation activities were arranged by the school as well as the student association called "Melting Potes" few days before the semester. This was mandatory to attend the orientation activities. Apart from that, they also arranged several workshops and talks to introduce the city and the campus.

International Services and Activities:

"Melting Potes" is an association for international services and activities. They always organised for international students and answered questions from us. If you have any issues with your life in France, feel free to reach out to them. They also organised different activities to help international settle down. For example, they invited the staff from BNP to help us the BNP bank account. "Melting Potes" is a great opportunity to get familiar with the local community and make friends from all around the world.

Accommodations:

First and foremost, KEDGE did not provide any student accommodation, all students have to find your own residence by yourselves. Of course, KEDGE also provided assistance to students. But it was still very difficult to find the residence in Bordeaux. Thus, better start searching residence months before your arrival and try to share an apartment with your friends.

Course Registration:

We could choose either "Track" or "Electives" in my study in KEDGE. If you choose "Track", you must study all courses in that "Track, nothing more, nothing less. This is so inflexible if studying track. Thus, I studied 6 courses (30 ECTS in total) eventually. The maximum credits in KEDGE is 35 ECTS, which is around 7 courses. The course registration took place on August.

Teaching and Assessment Methods:

Face-to-face lessons were fully resumed in KEDGE. 80% attendance is needed as the requirement to pass the course. Assessment methods varied across different courses but you can find the syllabus in KEDGE website. Typically, a course will consist of one lesson per week that is around three hours.

Finance and Banking:

France and the rest of Europe are very card-friendly. I didn't bring a lot of Euros with me at that time. As many places just accepted card payment, having a credit/debit card with you is very important. Apart from that, you can also apply for a local bank account once you arrive in France. "Melting Potes" had partnership with BNP. It is more convenient if you choose to open an account in BNP.

Sports and Recreation Activities:

KEDGE Bordeaux has a indoor sports hall, outdoor rooftop basketball court and a gym. For the indoor sports hall, you need a reservation first as its always full. Different associations always have trainings there. The gym doesn't require any reservation. However, the gym is so tiny with a few machines and barbell.

Social Clubs and Network Opportunities:

There are many student associations and networking opportunities provided by the school. "Melting Potes", which is the student association responsible for greeting the international. They always organised many different activities to students. Apart from "Melting Potes", there are many different student associations in KEDGE, including sports, wine tasting, cheerleading student association. International students are also welcome to join these student associations after interview.

Health and Safety:

It is quite safe to stay alone in Bordeaux during day time, but better stay with your friends at night. In general, Bordeaux is a safe city in France, you just need to be aware of your belongings, especially for phone and wallet. Thievery and robbery are very common in Bordeaux. We had to sign up for the French social security insurance which will cover many different clinics in France. But it is quite complicated to see a doctor in France, appointment is usually needed in the local clinics.

Food:

There are many different choices in Bordeaux. If you think dining out is so expensive, local supermarkets also offer relatively cheap food. Carrefour and Auchan are the most common supermarkets in Bordeaux. KEDGE only has a tiny canteen which serve lunch only in the campus. Basically there is nothing to eat in the campus, except some vending machines.

Transportation:

As there is no subway in Bordeaux, tram and bus are the most common public transportation. We went to the TBM office and got our student discount card. You can also rent bicycles and scooters in the streets with the application installed in your phone. Be

aware of that labour strike is very common In France, check carefully if there is any labour strike during school days.

Climate:

The weather in Bordeaux was very good as it is located in the southern France, close to the Spanish border, it is a bit warmer. The temperature can be quite different throughout the day. Nothing special in terms of the climate.

Cautionary Measures:

It is advisable to be super careful and cautious when staying in Europe. Many street gangs and scams in famous European cities and they usually target to tourists. Do not trust strangers easily and always consult your friends and family if you think something is suspicious.

Communication:

French is widely used in France. Bordeaux is a not a big city, many people in there genuinely don't know how to speak English. It was disastrous to communicate with the locals when I just arrived. It is advisable to learn a bot French before going to France.

Session3: Items to Bring

1. HKID
2. Passport
3. Visa
4. Student Card
5. Laptop
6. Winter Clothes
7. European adopter
8. Credit card
9. Some cash
10. Personal hygiene items
11. Personal medicine
12. Cabin size luggage

Session4: Important Links and Contacts

- Campus Virtuel

<https://campusvirtuel.kedgebs.com/>

- Kedge Business School

<https://kedgebs.helloid.com/Authentication/SignIn?ReturnUrl=%2f#/applications>

-Learn (Similar to Canvas in UST)

<https://kedgebs.helloid.com/relayservice/redirect/66022050-4b1a-4f07-b8c8-027f62619e9f>

-Visa

<https://hongkong.consulfrance.org/Applying-for-a-French-visa-in-Hong-%20Kongand-Macau>

-Studapart (Accommodation)

<https://kedge.studapart.com/en/>